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NURSING IN MISSION STATIONS

A CASE OF DEPRESSED NIPPLES WITH OCCLUDED DUCTS

BY JENNIE MANGET LOGAN

Changteh, Hunan, China

On December 23, Mrs. C. was confined—a primipera, with the worst case of depressed nipples I have ever seen. The milk came in on the third day and the breasts were badly engorged but the baby could get no hold. Feeling that the child lacked strength to draw out the nipples and with the spectre of a marasmatic baby before my eyes, which haunts every nurse in this land of “no cow but the tin cow,” I worked at the nipples and after half an hour found that both had been considerably drawn out but that very little milk came. The doctor examined them carefully and found that the ducts were almost completely occluded. No help was to be had from medical books, our latest one on obstetrics, by Williams, third edition, said: “In pronounced cases of this so-called depressed nipples, nursing is out of the question.”

At the earnest pleading of the parents the mother was etherized and the nipples were punctured with a fine needle some score of times. The left nipple was so depressed that it was impossible to grasp and hold it between the thumb and first finger. This operation apparently failed.

A friend brought her two months' old baby, who was a fine healthy boy, and he sucked at the right breast. The nipple showed a good deal of improvement in shape but the baby got no milk.

For ten days we gave the baby artificial food, pumping the breasts with an ordinary breast pump, but we obtained only from one to two drams each time to add to the canned milk feeding, so I was pretty well discouraged. Only the mother's begging induced me not to abandon the work.

We soon learn out here to take God in as consultant in all our cases, and while I was working away, asking Him to help me, the thought of a Biers cupping set came into my mind. I hastily sterilized the cupping glass, two inches in diameter, and put it on the breast, but as the suction was not intermittent, it was a failure. I went back to our supplies to see if I could find anything else that might help, when our hospital handy man asked what I was looking for and suggested a large ear syringe. I took it and connected it with the cupping glass, using the syringe for suction instead of injection. I drew

out the piston; this formed a vacuum which drew the nipple and aureola into the glass. After a few seconds this vacuum was broken by pushing in the piston. By repeating these movements the action was similar to but very much more powerful than normal nursing. In less than a minute one duct after another burst open and the flow of milk from them could be seen impinging on the glass. In fifteen minutes four and one-fourth ounces had been obtained from the breast which had before yielded a scanty dram at the most. The milk was full of colostrum, very thick and yellow, but the poor baby drank it greedily and slept for hours afterward, while the mother and I had a praise meeting.

The other breast was pumped in the same way and the baby, at a month old, was fat and flourishing. The nipples were gradually shaped so that the baby could nurse, though the pump had to be used occasionally when the mother was very tired and nervous.

A SCHOOL FOR NURSES IN PAUTINGFU, CHINA

By CORA S. LEWIS

You may be interested to know that in this far-away land we are trying to instill the principles of nursing into two classes, one of girls of five members, three having nearly completed their three and a half year course, and one of seven boys. It is very necessary now that men should take care of men and it will be necessary for another generation, at least, so our most progressive Chinese say. We get a nice class of boy students who take hold of the work very well. We are trying to give them an up-to-date course but are greatly in need of more help in giving them the practical training. The Women's Hospital, Hodge Memorial, has a daily clinic of a hundred or so women and the men's, Taylor Memorial, has about one hundred and fifty, from which material is selected for operations, more than a thousand having been performed during the year. One day an abdominal tumor weighing 49 pounds was removed from a woman who is now about ready to leave the hospital. The abdominal work is very encouraging. We are trying to find a male nurse to train the boys, but if one cannot be found, we hope we can procure a woman nurse. I am a graduate of the Lackawanna Hospital of Scranton and would enjoy giving the practical training myself, but find it too much, as I have two little children, a large house, and many visitors to entertain, beside doing most of the text-book teaching to the nurses in Chinese, having to put into lectures some things that have not been translated.